

Our vision is to provide the best parks and green spaces in the UK

Priority 8: Health and Wellbeing

Providing and promoting a wide range of opportunities for people to get the health benefits of spending time in green spaces

Goals	Actions	Timescale	Measuring success	Progress Update, Jan 2024
To provide good quality public green space that people want to visit (see priority 1!) - particularly in areas of deprivation where the positive impact on health will be greater.	(If we have limited resources) Where possible and appropriate, prioritise investment in green spaces in areas of deprivation.	Ongoing	Number of sites achieving LQP/Green Flag in areas of deprivation	Parks in areas of deprivation have been prioritised for Plans on a Page (among other key criteria like current park quality, numbers using the sites and density of local population).
To provide a range of opportunities for people to be physically active in green spaces across the city, so everyone can enjoy being active outdoors, no matter what their level of ability or interests.	Update and publish the <i>Playing Pitch Strategy</i> (which sets out future priorities for football, rugby and cricket pitches) to ensure there is a suitable level of provision across the city.	Short	Playing Pitch Strategy complete	Resource and funding is currently being sought for the development of the PPS.
	Audit, and keep a record of the condition of, other sports facilities (tennis courts, bowling greens, outdoor gyms, MUGAs) on our sites so the information can be used to prioritise investment in them to provide equal access	Short	Audits complete and up to date	Bowling green and tennis court audits in place. Outdoor gyms and MUGAs still to do.
	Work with local sporting organisations and national sporting bodies to develop, maintain and promote sports facilities across the city.	Ongoing		We work with national and regional sport bodies to provide ongoing support and advice to sports clubs that are seeking improvements to sports facilities such as clubhouses, changing rooms, pitches, tennis courts and bowling greens. Large, community-led capital projects that were in development in 2023 and are now nearing completion include the construction of new rugby pavilions at Stonegate Road (North Leeds Leopards Rugby) and Butt Lane (Farnley Falcons Rugby) and an extension on the changing rooms at West Leeds Rugby League Club in Armley. Investment for these facilities has come from various sources including the English Cricket Board (ECB), Sport England, Rugby World Cup Legacy Fund, Leeds City Council and Landfill providers, along with contributions from the clubs themselves.
	Develop new opportunities for people to cycle at our sites (where suitable) including creating the new cycling trails and Learn to Ride Area at Temple Newsam	Medium	Temple Newsam cycling facilities in place	A BMX cycling area was refurbished at East End park in 2023. The proposal for new cycling facilities at Temple Newsam is with Planning awaiting planning permission and we are optimistic that the scheme will be delivered in 2024.
	To create and promote a measured and signposted walking route in every suitable community and city park (to go in Plan on a Page)	Long	Parks with measured walking routes available	These are included in Plans on a Page as appropriate - for example in 2023 a new circular walking route was proposed and agreed as part of the long term vision for East End park.
	To make every effort to accommodate healthy activity, including new sports, on our sites (as appropriate)	Ongoing		Ongoing - we are constantly liaising with council colleagues, sports clubs and national sporting bodies to ensure they have suitable facilities such as changing rooms and pitches. With regards new sports, we supported Leeds Petangue Club to create a new petangue court at Kirkstall Abbey Park and installed Pickleball (low impact form of tennis) courts at Springhead park and Hunslet Moor.
	Seek external funding to develop and improve sports facilities in parks and green spaces	Ongoing		This work is ongoing and involves many partners with some information on externally-funded projects in the pipeline provided above. In 2023, new sports facilities installed included a multi-use games area at Hunslet Moor, non-turf cricket pitches at Roundhay park and Bedquills, table tennis at Yeadon Tarn and a trim trail at Pepper Road. We are also currently in conversation with the West Riding County FA re: funding for pitch improvements, the Football Foundation with regards funding for a number of 'Playzones' (which are Multi Use Games Areas) across the city and the Lawn Tennis Association re: investment in tennis courts.
For our green spaces to be used for 'active travel' around the city as a healthier, more environmentally friendly option than driving.	Update and implement the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP).	Short	PROW Improvement Plan up to date	Updates on the implementation of the actions in the ROWIP continue to be provided to the Leeds Local Access Forum quarterly. £608,880 external funding was secured from the City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) fund for PROW improvements in 2023 which will provide significant support for the delivery of the actions.
	Work with partners to support the development of off-road transport routes across the city (where possible)	Ongoing		The Green Spaces service is represented on the Active Travel and Healthier Streets Board which seeks to improve opportunities for active travel.

For people to use 'active travel' to get to and from our green spaces	Develop and promote walking routes connecting green spaces and communities across the city, prioritising the areas of deprivation where the public health benefits of accessing green space will be greater.	Long	Extension of 'country park' routes to cover the whole city.	Approx. £608,880 funding was secured in 2023 through the City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement fund (CRSTS) from West Yorkshire Combined Authority for public rights of way improvements to be delivered over the next 4 years in line with the actions set out in the ROWIP. CRSTS is aimed at providing an integrated and inclusive transport network to make it easier for people to walk, cycle and use public transport around West Yorkshire. CRSTS has a number of aspirations for integrated sustainable transportation with the key ones for the Public Rights of Way network being connectivity and contributing to Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plans. A significant amount of S106 is also available for PROW improvements and planning work has commenced on schemes funded by S106 in Horsforth, Micklefield and Morley.
	Promote active ways to get to our green spaces on our website e.g. cycling and walking routes	Medium	Information available on internet	This action is to be undertaken by 2028.
	Seek funding to install bike stands at all our most popular sites.	Long		Bike stands were installed at Wortley Rec in 2023.
To increase awareness of the benefits of spending time in green space for health and encourage people to use them for that purpose	(With partners) promote the mental and physical benefits of spending time in parks and green spaces	Medium		We continue to work closely with colleagues in Active Leeds and Public Health to provide and promote active lifestyles in parks. The Ranger team recently joined the Green Activity Provider's group in relation to their volunteering programme and the group are looking into opportunities to promote the health benefits of volunteering.
	Improve the availability of information about our sports facilities and walking and cycling (including PROW) routes on the internet and through the use of new technology (e.g. online bookings and walking apps)	Medium	Information available on internet	Work continues with community groups to create walking trails, heritage trails, mindfulness walks and augmented reality games on the Love Exploring app. Routes have been made available for some of our community and city parks and we continue to work with Public Health, Active Leeds and community groups to promote and develop the walking routes on the app. Over the coming year the ranger team will be trained on devising the trails and help create content with their volunteers and community groups.
	Sell local cycling & walking route leaflets, maps & books from our shops	Short		These were introduced at our all our outlets in 2023 and have been selling well.

Timescales: Short = 1-3 years, Medium = 4-6 years, Long = 7-10 years.